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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter that the applicants regard as their invention, and claim 10 has been amended to place it in independent form in view of the examiner's indication of allowability of that claim upon the proper rewriting thereof.

The drawings and the specification were objected to based upon the recitations that were contained in former claims 15 and 17. In that regard, those claims had been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in the Amendment filed herein on March 31, 2004. Accordingly, those objections are moot and are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 1 through 9, 11 through 13, and 15 through 17 were rejected as anticipated by the Fischer et al. '178 patent. In that regard, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the structure of the invention. Specifically, that claim has been amended to recite that the toothed rack is in sliding contact with an inner wall surface of the first receptacle. That structural feature is not shown in nor suggested by the Fischer et al. reference, which shows feed screw 1010 spaced inwardly of the inner wall surface of the first receptacle, as the latter was referred to by the examiner (shown in the area of the lead line of reference numeral 1012 in Figure 13 of Fischer et al.).

The amendment to claim 1 does not introduce new issues, but merely clarifies the structure that was previously claimed. And because the Fischer et al. reference does not disclose the actuator structure as it is now

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claimed it cannot be said to anticipate the claimed structure. Furthermore, in addition to not anticipating claim 1, that reference cannot be applied to reject claim 1 as obvious because Fischer et al. is not a proper §103 reference in that it is commonly owned by the owner of the present application (see 35 U.S.C. §103(c)), as was explained in the Amendment filed herein on March 31, 2004.

Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 1, 3, 4, and 10 and is now in allowable form.

Claims 2 through 9, 11 through 13, 16, and 18 through 21 each depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and therefore the same distinctions as have been noted above with respect to amended claim 1 apply with equal effect to each of those dependent claims.

Applicants' attorney notes with appreciation the allowance of claim 14 and the indication of allowability of the subject matter of claim 10, which has been placed in independent form to render it allowable. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks all the claims remaining in the application are believed now to be in allowable form.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims as they now stand in the application are believed clearly to be in allowable form. Consequently, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be

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quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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